

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Sinclair's claim that "Stolen Honor" is "news content" rather than partisan propaganda is patently ridiculous, especially coming from the broadcasting company who refused to air Koppel's recitation of the names of American soldiers KIA in Iraq earlier this year. I understand that there are FCC and FEC rules that prohibit this sort of last-minute propaganda, and if this is not the sort of action they are intended to prohibit, what is?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.